

**From:** Stevens  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 1:42pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

Robert & Natalie Stevens

1717 Joshua Court

Palm Harbor, Florida 34683

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Regarding the recent Microsoft Antitrust settlement, The PC industry, the economy and the stock market have suffered enough from this misguided lawsuit which was instigated by Microsoft's competitors who elected to compete via lobbying and courtroom tactics rather than in the marketplace. I firmly believe that litigation should come to an end. At this point, it seems ridiculous to prolong this case any further.

Microsoft is much less of a problem than the Cable-Satellite-Broadcast Cartel which has conspired to restrict trade by controlling what consumers will and will not be able to watch by forcing viewing "packages". Cable and DBS satellite providers mandate that "packages" must be purchased if you want to watch even one of the channels in the package. This lack of a la carte offerings forces consumers to buy a multitude of unwanted channels in order to see a few desired channels.

Business Week (Jan 21, 2002 pg. 71) pointed out that AOL/Time Warner (and other cable and mini-dish satellite providers) are collecting \$54 per month from its subscribers while Microsoft is lucky if it sells a home PC user a \$90 operating-system upgrade every three or four years. If you are worried about monopoly power forcing consumers to pay more Microsoft should NOT be your target, the Cable-Satellite-Broadcast Cartel should.

The settlement proposed in early November of last year contains several restrictions and commitments to

which Microsoft has agreed. In these commitments, Microsoft permits computer makers to replace access to Microsoft features with access to the competitor's software. This will require that Microsoft change certain interfaces necessary to the Windows' operating system. However, the list doesn't end there. Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against its competitors and to ensure this from happening, a three person technical committee will be formed to make sure that Microsoft sticks to the terms of settlement.

As you can plainly see, Microsoft has more than paid for its previous actions. As I believe Microsoft to be a respectable company, I assure you that this settlement will more than suffice.

Sincerely,

Robert Stevens &  
Natalie Stevens